

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 05426 232309Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 HA-05 MCT-01 ACDA-12 /075 W
-----097261 240912Z /23

R 232140Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6147
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 5426

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, SHUM, ES, HO

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF (1) FRONTIER INCIDENTS AND (2) HUMAN
RIGHTS WITH MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

REF: SAN SALVADOR 5377

1. AMBASSADOR'S TWICE-POSTPONED COURTESY CALL ON
MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE PROVIDED CONVENIENT
OCCASION TODAY FOR LIMITED DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANTIVE
TOPICS. AMBASSADOR AND ACCOMPANYING DATT LT. COL.
WALKER RAISED TWO SUCH SUBJECTS WITHIN MINISTER CASTILLO
YANES AND SUBSECRETARY COLONEL IRAHETA (ONE OF PRIME
CANDIDATES FOR REPLACE MINISTER UPON LATTER'S ANTICIPATED
END-OF-YEAR RETIREMENT.

2. EL SALVADOR-HONDURAS BORDER. MINISTER CASTILLO YANES
CONFIRMED PRESS ACCOUNTS AND FOREIGN MINISTRY
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STATEMENT OF NOV. 19 INCURSION BY HONDURAN TROOPS

INTO EL SALVADOR TERRITORY. SAID GOES HAD BEEN
SCRUPULOUS IN KEEPING ITS OWN FORCES AWAY FROM
CONTROVERSIAL AREAS AND HAD REFRAINED FROM ANY
MILITARY RIPOSTE IN FACE OF HONDURAS AGGRESSION.
SAID HE COULD NOT BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND WHY GOVERNMENT

OF HONDURAS COULD TAKE SUCH ACTION AT PRECISE MOMENT WHEN EXCHANGE OF INSTRUMENTS OF MEDIATION PACT RATIFICATION WAS UNDERWAY IN WASHINGTON. MINISTER APPEARED TO LEAN TOWARD INTERPRETATION OF EVENTS AS SOME UNINTENTIONAL AND UNAUTHORIZED INDISCRETION, WHICH OFTEN OCCURS, BY SMALL NUMBER OF HONDURAN TROOPS ON THE SPOT. IN ANY EVENT, HE SAID, OAS OBSERVERS WERE FORTUNATELY INVOLVED AND ASCERTAINING OF TRUE FACTS COULD FOR THE MOMENT BE LEFT TO THEM.

3. HUMAN RIGHTS. IN DISCUSSION OF RECENT PUBLIC DISORDERS AND CRIMES OF VIOLENCE, WE NOTED TENDENCY OF MASS MEDIA CAMPAIGN TO BLAME US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY FOR FAILURE OF GOES TO ACT IN DEFENSE OF NATION AND SOCIETY. ONCE AGAIN WE POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS NO CONFLICT BETWEEN OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROPER ENFORCEMENT OF LAW--PROVIDED LATTER IS DONE IN MANNER PRESCRIBED BY LAW AND WITHOUT DETRIMENT TO RIGHTS OF THE INNOCENT. WE EMPHASIZED HOWEVER, DUTY OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES TO MAKE CAREFUL DISTINCTION BETWEEN LEGITIMATE DISSENT, EXPRESSION OF OPINION AND PUBLIC ASSEMBLY ON THE ONE HAND, AND ILLEGAL OR VIOLENT ACTS AGAINST SOCIETY ON THE OTHER.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 23-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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